

## II. REMARKS

Amendments were made to the specification to conform to grammatical rules and to correct style. The amendments contain only subject matter from the original specification and no new matter has been added. The changes made by the amendment are attached and under the title: "Version with Markings to Show Changes."

Amendments to the drawings have been made to correct informalities and to make the drawings consistent with the specification and no new matter has been added. Changes to the drawings have been made in redline to facilitate their review by the examiner. Formal drawings will be provided once the changes to the drawings have been approved by the examiner.

Claims 26-155 are new claims.

Allowance of claims 1-155 at an early date is solicited.

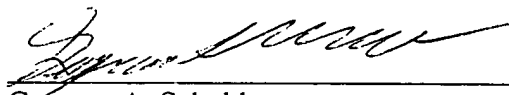
If the claims of the application are not believed to be in full condition for allowance, for any reason, the Applicant respectfully requests the constructive assistance and suggestions of the Examiner so that the application can be placed in allowable condition as soon as possible and without the need for further proceedings.

If the Examiner feels that a telephone interview may be helpful in this matter, please contact Applicants' representative at 612.332.5300.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.  
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Date: 5/17/02

  
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